

# Testimony on HB 5425: An Act Concerning Special Education

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Twelve years ago, I filed the second ABA due process case in the State of Connecticut that fought for ABA services for my child. Part of the problem was that the school did not have a board certified behavior analyst as an integral part of my son's education team. I was fortunate enough to prevail. I went on to become a special education advocate in private practice and help other parent's secure appropriate services for their children with ASD.

All these years later, nearly every family who retains me does so because one of the integral aspects of their child's program is not appropriate – that is that behavioral analysis is not being conducted by qualified professionals. As an advocate, this issue is at the heart of almost every case in which I am involved.

We must insist that qualified professionals deliver these services in school, just as we insist that certified and qualified professionals deliver speech and language services, occupational and physical therapy services, psychological services, social services and academic instruction.

It is my strong belief that if we do not hold the same expectations, or that we treat the delivery of these services inequitably, that we are discriminating against children who require this level of expertise.